
The original instrument was prepared by Greg Waddell. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

Walsworth (SB 279)

Proposed law provides that it is the intent of the legislature that this state not have a deficit of safe public evacuation shelter space in any region of the state by the year 2014 and thereafter.

Proposed law provides that public facilities, including schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals or nursing homes, which are suitable for use as public evacuation shelters will be made available at the request of the director of the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The director of the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will coordinate with the appropriate school board, university, community college, technical school, or local governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as public evacuation shelters.

Proposed law provides that any public facility that is the recipient of retrofitting or hardening construction that is funded from monies appropriated by the state or federal government for purposes of being used as a shelter are to make such facility available for use as a public evacuation shelter at the request of the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Proposed law provides that public facilities include all schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, excluding hospitals or nursing homes, that meet that minimum standards for use as an emergency shelter.

Proposed law provides that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will select from an inventory list of those facilities recommended by the directors of the parish offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness for retrofitting those public facilities that, with reasonable hardening or retrofitting modifications, would accelerate the state and local efforts to reduce the deficit in shelter space.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 29:726.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Provides that public facilities, including schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals or nursing homes, which are suitable for use as public evacuation shelters, will be made available at the request of the director of the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.
2. Provides that the director of the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will coordinate with the appropriate school board, university, community college, technical school, or local governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as public evacuation shelters.
3. Deletes proposed law that by January 1, 2010, each local office of GOHSEP will complete an inventory, assess all local public facilities, and identify those public facilities which are suitable for use as an emergency evacuation shelter and those public facilities with retrofitting or hardening needs required to meet the criteria of a facility suitable for use as an emergency evacuation shelter. Also deletes proposed law that this report must be updated and submitted to the Shelter Inventory Committee by March 1 of each year.
4. Deletes provision of proposed law that this inventory report contain, at a minimum, the following: (a) the parish and municipal location of each public facility; (b) the number of spaces available at each facility; (c) the number of restrooms which meet the criteria set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act; (d) the number of showers and hand wash stations for each facility; (e) the primary use of the facility; (f) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the persons having the authority to grant use of the facilities as authorized by the OEP, DSS or GOHSEP during a declared emergency; and (g) those shelters that accept pets.
5. Provides that public facilities shall include all schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, excluding hospitals or nursing homes, that meet the minimum standards for use as an emergency shelter.
6. Provides that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will select from an inventory list of those facilities recommended by the directors of the parish offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness for retrofitting those public facilities that, with reasonable hardening or retrofitting modifications, would accelerate the state and local efforts to reduce the deficit in shelter space.
7. Deletes proposed law relative to the creation, membership, and operation of the Shelter Inventory Committee.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical changes.